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# Andrews brings home awards from Society of Adventist Communicators Convention

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*Andrews University*

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## Slikkers named new manager of Howard Performing Arts Center

A familiar face is taking over leadership at the Howard Performing Arts Center. Erica Slikkers, who has served as assistant manager at the Howard Center since January 2008, is the new manager. She assumes the role following the departure of Debbie Weithers, who is now serving as a senior development officer in the Andrews University Office of Development.

"Erica is highly qualified to be the new manager for the Howard Center, and we are thrilled that she has accepted this challenge," says Dave Faehner, vice president for University Advancement at Andrews University.

While a student at Andrews University, Slikkers worked at the Howard Center, first as a marketing and com-



Erica Slikkers assumes the position of manager, following the departure of Debbie Weithers who now is a senior development officer at Andrews University.

munication assistant from August 2003 to May 2006, and later as a contract writer during the 2006–2007 season.

She graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts in public relations and a minor in music from Andrews University. When the assistant manager position at the Howard Center opened up in late 2007, Slikkers applied and was hired in January 2008.

"I'm very excited about this next step in my career," says Slikkers. "It's such a privilege to bring high profile artists and great music to Andrews University and Berrien Springs."

Her passion for music extends beyond her role at the Howard Center. Slikkers is a classically-trained violinist of 17 years who loves to teach. She teaches at a private violin studio based in Berrien Springs.

Originally from Holland, Mich., Slikkers currently resides in Baroda, Mich. A true southwest Michigander, she counts Lake Michigan as one of her favorite things.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication

## Andrews brings home awards from Society of Adventist Communicators convention

Andrews University took home several awards from the annual Society of Adventist Communicators convention held in Lombard, Ill., Oct. 19–22. At the closing banquet, an awards ceremony honored individuals for their contributions to the field of communication and recognized marketing- and communication-related projects and products that exhibit a standard of excellence.

Kristina Penny, a senior Andrews University journalism major, received the "Student Award." This award is designed to recognize students who demonstrate excellence not only in the classroom, but on-the-job as well.



Steve Vistaunet (left), out-going president of the Society of Adventist Communicators, presents the "Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award" to the team behind Envision Magazine. Delyse Steyn (center), chair of the Department of Communication, and Glenn Roper II, an Andrews student and managing editor of Envision, accept the award on behalf of the team.

At the award ceremony, many of Penny's accomplishments were noted: editor of the *Student Movement*; lead editor of *Scriptural Pursuit* and *Sabbath School U.*; and completed internships with WDIV, an NBC affiliate, and WDET, an NPR station, both in Detroit, Mich. Penny is currently working on production of a documentary on the country of Jordan.

*Envision*, a student-produced magazine, received the "Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award." This award is named in honor of the late Reger Smith Jr., who served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 27 years in public relations, graphic design, photography, and other areas of communication.

"To receive an award in honor of Reger Smith is very special to us," said Delyse Steyn, chair of the Andrews University Department of Communication. "His influence and interest in our department was profound and meaningful."

Andrews University also received a number of "Best in Class" awards and "Honorable Mention" certificates for a variety of marketing- and communication-related projects and products. The full list is available at [www.andrews.edu/news](http://www.andrews.edu/news).

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication